

Lancaster Intelligencer.

THURSDAY EVENING, AUG. 5, 1880.

What is Judicially Decided.

From the records of the court at Chicago, where suit was brought by one Chittenden to recover from the representatives of DeGolyer & Co. a hundred thousand dollars for his service in securing the contract to lay the wooden pavement in Washington, out of which he averred DeGolyer & Co. had made \$400,000, getting \$3.50 a yard for what cost them but \$1.50, it appears that the defense to the suit made by DeGolyer & Co., who were represented by ex-Senator Doolittle, was, first, that the contract was void upon its face; and, secondly, that it was void as against public policy, because of the five thousand dollars paid to James A. Garfield, a member of Congress, for his influence as a congressman in getting the board of public works at Washington to give DeGolyer & Co. the contract. In June, 1875, Chittenden, the plaintiff, was ordered to reply, or demur to the answer. He demurred; or, in other words, he admitted the facts stated in the answer to be true, but declared that the law would permit him to recover his claim notwithstanding. Upon argument Judge Farwell, a Republican, overruled the demurrer; and thereby it was judicially decided that the contract was void because of the bribery practiced in securing the influence of congressman Garfield to obtain it. No appeal was taken from this decision and the case was finally dismissed in May, 1876, for failure to further prosecute it. There is, therefore, on record a judicial finding that Garfield received five thousand dollars to procure this contract and that it is contrary to public policy that congressmen shall be thus retained in private claims against the government that they are rendered totally void by it. The public sense agrees with this decision. What then is to be said in favor of the election to the chief magistracy of one who has so grossly offended against the law?

Not Against a Governor.

The New York Sun is intensely denunciatory of the governor of New York for his failure to relieve from the death penalty a poor Italian who unfortunately finds himself committed to the hangman's hands, and goes to his doom on Friday. The Sun has need to control its soul in patience. The disgust it feels at the mixture of cowardice, stupidity and brutality which induces most men in gubernatorial places to refrain from exercising their prerogative on mercy's side naturally excites the intense disgust of those who observe it. There is conceived to be a popular prejudice against the exercise of clemency to murderers; as there is. But there is no such feeling against the release from the noose of those who are unjustly caught in it. Many governors are unable to appreciate the difference, and think they are safer in a policy of non-interference with the verdict of the jury. Others interfere without intelligence, or owing to some improper influence. So that it happens that public criticism is very often indeed unfavorable to the governor, whatever he does. It is inseparable from his place and his responsibilities. If he discharges his duty fearlessly, intelligently and conscientiously he will secure applause. If he fails in these particulars he will be condemned; and he certainly cannot save his skin by administering his office mercifully, if mercy is the demand of the occasion. The Sun believes that the hanging of this Italian will bring Gov. Cornell into such contempt that "many men will refuse to take his hand, imagining they see blood on it; and he will be known hereafter as the red-handed governor. Should he have future children we shall expect to see them marked with red spots. When he dies the anatomists will search with curiosity to see whether he had a physical heart or not." He will hardly earn so dreadful a doom from one exhibition of his unfitness for his duty, though quite probably he will earn it by the general course of his government if he is as unfit for his place as the Sun makes him out to be. The title of "the red-handed governor" he will scarcely be able to wrest from our own Hartranft, who secured it with many a mouldering body.

The Republicans affect to derive much comfort from the confident assertion of Murat Halstead that the flank of the Democracy in Indiana is exposed to danger. With Mr. Halstead the wish is father to the thought. When the Democratic convention was in session in Cincinnati, he was very anxious to act as wet nurse for it. He got the idea into his head that McDonald ought to be the nominee, and that he and his paper ought to control the issue to that end. Mr. McDonald, who was in the convention as Mr. Hendricks's friend, at once and very forcibly sat down upon the suggestion. He had noticed Garfield's conduct at Chicago, and had read this same Murat Halstead's withering denunciation of Garfield's alleged treachery to Sherman; McDonald was true to Hendricks and would hear to no mention of his own name. Halstead was disappointed and has ever since been trying to make it appear that McDonald is in the sulks because Hendricks staid in the field, and that both are offended because English was taken for the second place. There is no such feeling. On the other hand Indiana with one voice at Cincinnati asked for English because he was the strongest man to carry the state in October, and he will see that it is done. Senator Pendleton comes on to New York with the news that if the Republicans do not bestir themselves they will lose Ohio and Illinois.

WITHOUT showing any fallacy in the finance committee's statement of the constitutional limit of the city debt, the friends of the veto ordinance for its increase have introduced a measure similar to that which the mayor recently vetoed, except that the amount is increased. There is no better excuse for passing this measure, under existing conditions, than there was for its prede-

cessor and the insuperable objections to the mayor signing that one, under his oath of office, have certainly not been removed by any feature in the new one.

The interest of the readers of the INTELLIGENCER will be at once engaged by the narrative of President Lincoln's exalted opinion of General Hancock as received by us from undoubted authority at Bedford Springs, and detailed in editorial notes made in another column of what was seen and heard during the brief visit. Equal credit is reflected upon the dead president and his living lieutenant, in the judgment that was dictated by a sagacity that time has so singularly vindicated. In the subsidence of passion that now enables every one to judge of the characters of the rebellion with calmness, esteem for that of President Lincoln has grown to such degree that his admirers embrace all classes of the community; and his opinion of Gen. Hancock will be valued by both Democrats and Republicans; but to the latter it must appeal with singular force. It is a judgment to be received by them with reverence and submission, even if it appeared less firmly founded.

THE Herald, which has its Hancock cap on these past few days, is as much delighted with Hancock's letter to Sherman as it is disgusted with the verbose progress of Garfield from Mentor to New York. The Herald isn't the sun, but when it crows sometimes it is a sign of sunrise.

MR. NAST contrasts the Democratic party's hungry condition with Dr. Tanner's. It looks as if Tanner would get through and eat the watermelon. It looks, too, as if the Democracy would get over their fast in time for the feast of fat things.

MINOR TOPICS.

THE valuation by the city assessors of Boston, shows an increase of \$25,764,500 over last year. A Democratic city, by the way, is Boston.

TURN to your file of Harper's Weekly for 1873. There is a double-page cartoon in the issue of March 15, of that year. Nast has Garfield and other Credit Mobilier "statesmen" arranged under a placard reading as follows: "Disgraced in the eye of the public for owning Credit Mobilier stock, which was in fact and intent a fraud upon the government. Also for deceit and evasion."

SENATOR ELI SATESBURY says: "The letter just published, written to General Sherman in 1876, I regard as a most conclusive evidence that Hancock is a statesman of a very superior sort, and it will have an astonishing effect upon the country. It cuts away the radical pretense that Hancock's mere soldier unacquainted with the spirit of the constitution and the spirit of liberty governing this country. The circumstances surrounding its preparation and the manner of its publication are calculated to impress upon every mind the force of character and dignity of Hancock's nature."

GENERAL JAMES B. WEAVER, presidential nominee of the Greenback-Labor party, has issued a circular to the members of that party appealing for contributions of one dollar and upward to aid in defraying the expenses of the campaign from now until November. This appeal comes at a bad time contemporaneously with the Alabama disclosures that Weaver is drawing pay from the national Republican committee, that the national Greenback executive committee is in communication with the national Republican executive committee, and the two committees will meet in secret session in Chicago on August 9. However Greenback orators have been in the hire of Republican politicians before now—in the Pennsylvania campaign of 1878 for instance.

REGARDING the Sherman letters which called out Hancock's reply, General Sherman says he is not disposed to mix himself in a presidential contest, but if the publication of the two letters referred to will further benefit Hancock or make more clear his letter to him, then Hancock has Sherman's permission to give them out for publication. In the case of the other letter Hancock was obliged to ask Sherman for a copy of it, because he was not able at the time to make two copies. The copy furnished Hancock by Sherman was made by Colonel Bacon, one of the aides on Sherman's staff, who certified on honor that it was a true and exact copy of the original, and the charges of garbling or rewriting are of course baseless.

REFERRING to Col. McClure's argument in the disbarment case Col. J. W. Forney in his paper of this week says: "You do not frequently find an accomplished journalist and ripe lawyer in the same person. But that double gift undoubtedly belongs to Colonel McClure, of the Times, and the argument in question was pronounced, when it was made, to be a production of rare literary merit, legal research, and oratorical finish. The whole proceeding against the independent editors of the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) INTELLIGENCER, who are also members of the bar of that county, was so harsh, extra judicial, and passionate as to have excited considerable surprise and regret among those who knew Judge Patterson. I believe the decision of the supreme court in this important case is still reserved."

Short and Sweet.

The following letter was sent to the Republican congressional campaign committee by Ralph P. Howe, of Little Valley, N. Y., an ex-soldier connected with the Seventy-second New York volunteers and an officeholder, in response to a letter levying an assessment upon him:

"E. McPherson, Secretary: 'Sir: You ask me for \$18 to help elect a man that was nominated by a party of politicians that issued orders and stationed pickets to prevent crippled soldiers from entering the building where the Republican convention was in session, and for the only reason that they were supposed friends of General Grant. You have got your man—now elect him! My vote and influence in the present campaign, and my money also, shall be given in favor of the soldier-statesman General W. S. Hancock.'"

RALPH P. HOWE.

Seventy-second New York."

July 24, 1880.

Twenty-five Republicans and seven Greenbackers who are employed in Daniel F. Baile's piano and organ factory at Washington, N. J., have declared their intention to vote for Hancock and English.

BEDFORD SPRINGS.

People and Things as I Found them—With-out Change—The Spirit of the Place and the Style of the Guests—What they do and how they do it.

Lincoln's Great Opinion of Hancock.

Editorial Notes.

It is a brief journey of seven hours from Lancaster to Bedford Springs, through pleasant valleys and by running waters that you gaze upon with contented delight from your open car window, into which pours the cool breeze caused by the rapid moving train. Landing in the ancient and pretty town of Bedford, a ride of a mile and a half yet remains between you and the wonderful valley where a half-dozen great springs burst forth close together from the mountain side, of different virtues—a royal family indeed, clustering around a very king of mineral springs. Bedford ought to be as frequented as Saratoga; and this its visitors have been saying for many years. The Anderson spring is as beneficial as the Congress, and even more valuable in the opinion of its votaries. It is accessible and near to the centre of population. It is among the cool, sweet valleys of the mountains, instead of on a flat and arid plain. Yet thousands resort to the one place, while tens go to the other. Evidently Saratoga is not visited for its waters. In this great country of ours, where the people grow rich so rapidly and in such numbers, a desideratum in a summer resort that Saratoga has supplied is a place where the most money can be spent in the shortest time and the greatest display be made of its possession. The newly rich want their wealth to be seen and admired. Ugly women load themselves with handsome dresses and great jewels, and enhance their ugliness in comparison, that their adornment may be wondered at and they receive the reflected glory of such ownership. Men are fools; and so Saratoga is possible.

And a pleasant place it is even for those who do not use it for a show room. It is pleasant to look at the show; and the waters are delightful to the taste. They are more agreeable than the Bedford water, because of the carbonic acid gas with which they are freely charged. The hotels here are palaces; at Bedford, in comparison, hovels. These springs have always been in possession of the Anderson family, and they are now managed according to the family traditions without change or shadow of variation from the old ways. Hardly a new nail is put into the sacred wood, which does not venture to decay though it puts on the grey and weather-beaten visage of age and seems to frown upon the gay fashions of youth. In tone with the spirit of the place the company comports itself. The ladies dress once for all day in the morning, selecting from their trunks the attire of soberest hue, but putting on their diamonds, which Bedford loves to see and which are almost necessary as a passport at its gates. Bedford visitors are as a rule wealthy people, who could easily buy all the comforts and glaze of Saratoga, but who love this homely place for its essential life and endure with complaisance the rude accommodations which are in sharp contrast with the too soft luxuries of their homes. The men come here with one suit of clothes and a small valise, and have precisely the same appearance at all times of the day and on all days of the week. A couple of years ago I appeared with a Cape May trunk and undertook to air its contents to keep out the moths. The resultant sensation was enormous, and if Barnum had come along then with his show I would have been lassoed for exhibition along side the woolly horse.

The same bells are about this place that rang in the early part of the century, and now with cracked voice, all through the day, speak out their messages to servants who have listened to them all their lives. The same dishes appear upon the table, served in the same way, at the same hours. The breakfast time is over at nine, and the dinner hour is limited to from two to three. The attendance at the table is excellent and the fare quite good enough for any body who goes to the springs for some thing else than to eat. The table is abundantly supplied, although there is that sameness in the supply which you would expect in a place that is so steadily run in ancient times. It could not be persuaded to accept a new idea, and one would almost think it a sacrilege to suggest it. For instance, the thousands of chickens that flock about the kitchen door would seem to be better cooped; but there has never been a coop; and a coop would interfere with the practice of the negro executioner, who calls the flock to him as he stands by the prison box into which he casts them as rapidly as he picks them up; then he opens the lid and draws them forth with one hand, while with the other he pulls their heads off as fast as he can handle them.

Bedford used to be a great place for the politicians of the state to gather, but this season there have not been many of this class registered upon the books. Judge Sterrett with his large and handsome presence at present looms up almost alone among the men of the state well known to fame; and he should not be classed among the politicians. This special character would seem to bring some discredit even here, judging by the way in which I heard a cabman speak, one afternoon as I passed a group of them in the hot hours of the afternoon, on the lawn, where they had usurped the chairs of the guests. "I don't care for politics. I ain't none of that 'ere kind; but I tell yer Garfield is the man; and that's all there is of that." Perhaps he had copied that style of discussion from the guests; it is quite a favorite style with people who affect to despise argument.

There are a good many iron manufacturers here, chiefly from Pittsburgh, which is very loyal to Bedford. They will talk to you till you feel as heavy as a pig of the metal. It is a good thing, though, with which to balance the political talk. Iron is as solid as politics are airy; and it is a cool sort of thing. It is rather refreshing to think of it in summer; and when it is going up, and you have any of it, you can take in a great deal of talk about it. Iron is always going. Generally it is going down when you have it and up when you haven't any. So it is well to study the idiosyncrasies of the creature; and Bedford will post you. If you have a talent for "mixing in" when you come in contact with intelligent people, you can learn a great deal at Bedford. I am la-

mentally deficient in this regard, but yet pick up a little on the outer edges. There is a good deal to be learned by watching people, when you don't talk to them; and this is a common occupation of all Bedford visitors with which to improve the shining hours. It is not the best way but it is better than to go to sleep.

I met Mr. James McDougal, a lumber merchant of Baltimore of high respectability, a relative of Mrs. B. J. McGrann, of Lancaster, and one of the genial class of Springs visitors who become generally known and popular. Mr. McDougal has been an ardent Republican; a demagogue condition he reached after starting in life as an Old Line Whig, and passing thence through the purgatory of Douglas Democracy. Mr. McDougal lost forty thousand and some odd dollars by the rebellion, a circumstance which may account for some of his bitterness against the rebels. They say he was in danger of being lynched in the unpatriotic atmosphere of Baltimore in the earlier days of the rebellion; a fact which I can readily believe, for he evidently is brim full of strong opinions and plain language and has no disposition to check their overflow. He told me something which you will be glad to hear and which I am surprised that we never read before.

When Mr. Lincoln issued his Emancipation proclamation—I believe that was the occasion—a deputation of citizens from Baltimore went on to Washington to congratulate him. Mr. McDougal was of the number. They speedily got through with their address at the White House, and were about to leave, with the declaration that they would not further trespass upon the president's valuable time.

"Take seats, boys, take seats," exclaimed Mr. Lincoln, as he rang for chairs to be brought in, "it would be strange if I could not spare a half hour or an hour for conversation with friends who have come from Baltimore to see me."

And the visitors sat down and spent nearly an hour in conversation. Presently the subject of Generals came up and various opinions were expressed as to who was the ablest officer on our side. When a great many opinions had been given, Mr. Lincoln, said:

"Gentlemen, in my judgment, you have not struck the right man yet."

And of course all were anxious to hear him name the man and asked him to do so. He said:

"It is General Hancock."

The countenances of his visitors expressed their surprise and one of them ventured to say that he feared Hancock was too rash. "Yes," said Mr. Lincoln, "so some of the older generals have said to me, and I have said to them that I have watched General Hancock's conduct very carefully, and I have found that when he goes into action he achieves his purpose and comes out with a smaller list of casualties than any of them. Bold he is, but not rash. Why gentlemen do you know what his record was at West Point?"

And Mr. Lincoln went to his book shelf and, taking down an army register, showed the position in which Hancock had graduated, and that, furthermore, in a class that was one of the most distinguished that had ever graduated at the military academy. Continuing to speak of him in the highest terms, he further said:

"I tell you, gentlemen, that if his life and strength are spared, I believe that General Hancock is destined to be one of the most distinguished men of the age. Why, when I go down in the morning to open my mail—and I arise at four o'clock—I declared that I do it in fear and trembling lest I may hear that Hancock has been killed or wounded."

Was not that a remarkable narrative to take from an absolutely trustworthy source in the quiet valley by the Bedford Springs, and is it not a waving plume in Hancock's hat? Mr. Lincoln's prediction comes true in this hour that finds Hancock at the summit of his highest possible ambition; and his estimate of him has come to be shared by every intelligent reader of the great letter to Sherman, which appears, coincident with Lincoln's stamp, to fasten upon him the highest fame.

The seaside resorts seem to be growing in popularity at the cost of those in the mountain. The shore is filled this season with hundreds of thousands of visitors, while by these Bedford Springs, most ancient and renowned of life-giving fountains, but a few hundred sit down to quaff the healing waters. The Bedford season has not been brilliant, because of the lack of crowd. Its quietude suits the aged, who most do congregate there, and the children, who can be happy anywhere that their life is free, but is hardly so agreeable to the charming daughters who have gone from home to sea and to be seen, and who need not mineral waters. Neither do the sons; but they glide from under the paternal wing and spend their summer vacations as it suits them. The poor daughter, though, cannot be out without a chaperon; and so it comes that the girls at the Bedford Springs have few brothers of other girls, of appropriate age, to regale their eyes upon, and few of their own, of any age, to do duty as very poor substitutes. Truly at these mineral mountain springs a chaperon is hardly needed, so light is the temptation to levity.

But it can be made a very pleasant place, even to those who are fond of gaiety, if there happen to be a few guests of the proper constitution to leaven the mass; or should there be, as there is generally at the Virginia Springs, some one commissioned by the proprietors of the house to take charge of the amusement of the guests and aid them to the proper degree of sociability and intercourse. An official character of this kind enables persons who naturally desire to become acquainted to meet each other; and he serves to remind others, who are selfishly content with the society of their special friends, of the duty that rests upon them to make themselves generally agreeable. In the old Bedford days, Mr. Courtney for many years performed this to the great satisfaction and entertainment of the guests; but now they are left entirely alone and to their own resources; and if there does not happen to be some one among them of that rare and precious nature that inspires its possessor to exertion to secure the happiness of those around, even though they are outside a restricted circle of friends, the Springs will certainly be condemned as dull. A bright

and lively matron or two, with social instincts and industry, are worth a score of young men to make a summer resort agreeable, even to young ladies who most do affect the latter. A few young fellows—and there are always a few about—can be utilized by a skillful hand, so as to do service for an army. Bedford generally has a few ladies, such as Mrs. John Hampton, who do their part towards bringing the company into sociable relations, but this year they do not seem to have answered the roll call. It is truly remarkable how differently people view their social duties; and how incapable most persons are of performing them even when they know them. The difficulty rests in recognizing the proper mean between diffidence and boldness, and then in acting up to the conception. A young married lady said to me at Bedford, speaking of one who had made herself popular there a couple of years ago: "It must take a great deal of boldness to be popular here. I would rather be more retiring and less popular." And that probably is the general idea. Ladies—especially young ladies—generally educated, are so solicitous to be modest that they forget to be gracious. It is a fault on the right side in them; but married ladies of mature age may afford to risk and venture more and, under the safe protection of their condition, to distribute their recognition where it may seem to be merited. To discover the happy mean between boldness and timidity in social intercourse is simply to discover how to be truly polite.

Bedford is famous for its old habits. The same people come to it year after year and bear this best testimony to its solid merit. There is nothing to do but to use the water and enjoy the air and make yourself easy. The spirit that rests upon the place permits no excitement. Before breakfast the regulation is to drink two glasses of water from the great springs and walk a mile or so between them. An hour after breakfast a glass of the Sulphur water is proper; and so, before and after each meal, two glasses from the Anderson and one from the Sulphur are taken by those who use the water as prescribed. The morning hours are spent under the trees on the lawn or mountain side, the ladies having their work baskets with them. One very agreeable lady from Pittsburgh, declares that she rarely at night what she knits in the morning; and her work truly did not seem to progress; but then she was always very busy talking. The early hours of the afternoon are spent by the fair guests in their apartments, whence they emerge in the cooler hours to walk or drive. The evening is spent in the parlors playing cards, or on the portico in conversation, or in the ball room, which is patronized chiefly by the youngest of the guests. The very early time of ten o'clock is that prescribed by the custom of the house for retiring, and at eleven it has so deserted and melancholy a look that I found myself perforce compelled to hasten to my own apartment. The spirit of the place was too strong for me, and I should really have feared to be found traversing the silent passages at the midnight hour. A. J. S.

PERSONAL.

J. W. F. SWIFT, esq., and wife have returned from Cape May.

Bishop SIMPSON is staying at Santa Cruz, the Newport of California.

ECUENE intends shortly to quit Chiselhurst, and will take the remains of her son, the late Prince Imperial, with her.

General BUTLER is mentioned as having large interests in gold mines on the Pacific coast.

COLONEL VALENTINE BAKER, the Turkish pacha, will not, in case of war, fight against Greece, because the King of Greece is a brother of the Princess of Wales.

During the siege of Paris MARIE ROZE and SARAH BERNHARDT were associated in the corps of co-workers in organizing relief for the sick and wounded. Afterward the two ladies received a bronze medal and diploma of thanks.

Colonel B. J. CHAMBERS, Greenback candidate for vice president, states that the improved condition of his health justifies him in announcing to the people his intention of remaining on the ticket to the end of the campaign.

General GARFIELD arrived in New York last evening and was warmly received by a large gathering at the depot. He proceeded to the Fifth Avenue hotel, and subsequently in response to calls appeared on the balcony and simply expressed his thanks. On his way to New York, he was enthusiastically received at Batavia, Rochester, Lyons, Albany and Poughkeepsie, and made brief speeches at most of these points.

A SONNAMBULIST'S DREADFUL DEED. Murder of His Friend While Asleep—Arrest and Statement of the Perpetrator.

At Tyro, a little village in Davidson county, N. C., a man named Ulrich Phillips, who has been in the habit of sleeping in his sleep, lay in the store and watched for half the night and finally fell asleep, having stretched himself across a bed. It appears from subsequent developments that Click, the sonnambulist, got up and seizing an axe that had been placed near the bed to be used in case of an emergency, dealt his bed-fellow two blows across the neck, completely severing his head from his body.

Click is now in custody awaiting the result of a coroner's inquest. He professes to have known nothing of the occurrence until some time after the deed was committed and even denied that he did it until convinced by the overwhelming testimony of the bloodstained weapon and the condition of his garments. He admitted the fact that there was no one else in the room and no evidence that any one could be out without disturbing the locks and bars. The case has naturally caused considerable excitement in the community. Click's well known habit of sleep walking, together with the friendly relations which had existed between the two men, turn the scale of public opinion in his favor.

Still They Come.

Ex-Senator Pool, of North Carolina, who was a Republican United States senator, voted for Mr. Hayes four years ago, and now announces himself for Hancock, and will make speeches during the campaign for the Cincinnati ticket.

Stephen N. Winslow, the editor of the Commercial Advertiser, one of the most influential Republican editors in Philadelphia has declared for Hancock. John Luther Ringwalt, the gifted editor of the Railway

World, one of the old Democracy who joined the Republicans during the Le-compton struggle in 1858, has declared in the same way.

LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

Maud S. and St. Julian will trot at Rochester August 12, for a special purse of \$2,000, to beat the best record of 2:12.

There was a slight frost on the lowlands around Peoria, Ill., on Tuesday night.

Willbur F won the 2:36 race at Buffalo in 2:25; Maud S the 2:19 race in 2:15; and Bay Billy the 2:23 pace in 2:15.

Dennis Hayes was shot dead by Michael Dolan in a trifling quarrel in San Francisco, yesterday.

The peach crop will reach 5,000,000 baskets. Also, N. J. shipped 35,000 quarts of huckleberries during the past season to near-by markets.

James Cahill, assayer at San Francisco, yesterday afternoon fired an ineffectual shot at Mrs. Shelbue, and then shot himself through the head. The cause of the deed is unknown.

John Travers, a jealous silversmith, aged 40, of West Meriden, Conn., left his wife and children there, went to New York and ended his life with a bullet through his heart.

A young physician of Lyons on Monday commenced a fifteen days' fast for a wage of 2,000 francs, if he succeeds; but he will forfeit 100 francs for each of the fifteen days he may fail to complete.

Robbers have so worked up the feelings of the citizens of West Vincent and East Coventry townships, Chester, that pistols by the pillow and butcher knives by the bedside are now common sights.

The Passaic river in New Jersey has started the mill owners on its banks by suddenly becoming so low that many of them had to shut down. The oldest inhabitant was astonished at the freak.

The severest storm of the season visited Asbury park yesterday. The streets were flooded and the many swollen streams rushing into Wesley lake broke down the gates of the new dam, which was built last winter at a great expense, and an immense body of water rushed into the ocean.

At Nijni Novgorod, on the 31 inst., seventy houses near the fair were destroyed by a great fire, which is attributed to incendiaries. General Ignatieff, on being appointed temporary governor of the town was specially instructed to guard against incendiaries.

Two Cherokee boys were attacked by a band of Creek negroes near Gibson Station, in the Indian Territory, on Tuesday, in revenge for the lynching of two negro cattle thieves, supposed to have been done by the Cherokees, on the 20th inst. One of the boys was killed, the other wounded. Serious trouble was threatened in consequence, but it was averted by the Creek Indians agreeing to surrender the offending negroes.

An old man named Hull, working on Gay's farm near Vineland, N. J., was very badly hurt by the breaking of a chain attached to a stump machine, which he was operating at the time. A piece of a link of the fractured chain flew into his leg at a short distance below the right knee causing a slight fracture of the joint and imbedding itself firmly in the bone. Mr. Hull having been put under the influence of chloroform, the fragment of chain was removed.

STATE ITEMS.

The \$500 Geary monument bought by the state has reached Harrisburg, and now there is a quarrel whether it shall be put in Capitol park or "over his grave," as the appropriation act directed.

A huckster named George S. Hann, who gathers country produce for the company store at Steelton, was attacked by highwaymen near New Buffalo, Perry county, on Monday, and robbed of about \$80.

The Democrats having put up a stately pole at the corner of an unpaved local street in Pittsburgh, the envious Republicans appealed to the street commissioner and an alderman to have it cut down as a nuisance. No go.

John W. Cullon, the conveyancer who was condemned a year ago to five years' imprisonment to the Eastern penitentiary for altering the deeds to properties, and whose trial attracted great attention among lawyers and real estate men, died several days ago in the Eastern penitentiary and was buried quietly from the residence of a relative. His decease was undoubtedly hastened by remorse.

About one mile east of Curtin station on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad, the early morning train on Tuesday jumped the track, the baggage cars and two coaches rolling over a steep embankment. The train was filled with county officials bound for Bedford to attend the convention of county officials of the state. A good many ladies were aboard, but nobody was seriously hurt. Some of the passengers, however, had some miraculous escapes, just getting out from underneath the cars, having been thrown through the windows.

Presbyterian Assembly Branch.

The Presbyterian general assembly committee, appointed to revise the form of government and the discipline of the Presbyterian church, arrived in Long Branch last evening and will hold sessions for the accomplishment of their work at the Ocean hotel. The committee are as follows: Rev. Dr. E. T. Hatfield, New York city; Rev. Dr. A. T. Magill, Princeton, N. J.; Rev. Dr. W. E. Moore, Columbus, Ohio; Rev. Dr. E. R. Craven, Newark, N. J.; Rev. F. C. Patton, Chicago, and two coaches West, Cincinnati; Rev. R. W. Patterson, Chicago; Judge William Strong, Washington; Judge Nixon, Trenton, N. J.; Judge S. M. Moore, Chicago; Judge Breckenridge, St. Louis, and Judge Allison, Philadelphia. The session will occupy several days.

The Dentists Object.

At the session of the American Dental Association at Boston yesterday, a report was made by Dr. C. L. Stockton for the directory committee, making a special allusion to a dental directory for the State of New Jersey. The report was adopted as a report of progress and was followed by a series of resolutions by Dr. H. J. McKellops, which provided in effect that "This association discontemplates in a formal and emphatic manner the pernicious practice of members of the profession holding high positions in our schools of allowing their names to appear in advertisements as in-dorsements of any special mode of treatment, or of making any special claim to the pound for filling teeth, or any therapeutic agent whatever." The resolutions were adopted by a majority vote.

Temperance Union.

The tenth annual convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence union of America met in the Academy of Music, in Scranton, yesterday. Addresses of welcome were made by Rev. Fathers O'Hara, of Wilkes-barre, and McManus, of Archbold. Rev. Hugh Roe O'Donnell, president of the union, also made an address. About 100 delegates, representing 600 societies, with a membership of 60,000, are present in the convention. There will be a street parade of local societies to-day.

Shooting Case.

A young man aged 17 years, named Martin employed by Jacob Musselman, residing near New Holland, shot himself severely with a pistol on Sunday last. Just how the accident, if it was an accident, happened, is not known, as the family was absent at the time, and the young man would not or cannot explain the matter. His wound is in the side, and is not considered very dangerous.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

"THE LYCOMING."

Why the "Stockholders" of a Mutual Insurance Company Complain.

Quite an excitement has been created in this city and more especially in Columbia within the past few weeks by the demand upon policy holders of the Lycoming Mutual Insurance company for the payment of heavy assessments upon notes which the company takes from those insuring in it. These notes though given simply as collateral for the payment of assessments are for much larger amounts than their drawers ever expected to pay, and a 25 per cent. assessment and the threat of prompt legal collection of it if delayed payment has caused quite a flutter among the policy holders. In Bellocette where they are numerous they held a meeting, had an investigation and moved to ask for a receiver of the company, but the sufferers in the Milton fire who are looking to the company for their money being that no steps be taken to hinder them from getting it promptly.

A gentleman of this city who is well acquainted with the Lycoming company and its operation says in its behalf and in explanation of the present position of things: "The Lycoming fire insurance company has for at least twenty years been a great favorite with Lancaster property owners, and has on the whole done a large and profitable business with small expense to the policy holders. It is only within a very few years past that it has met with serious losses and been obliged to call upon its policy holders for extraordinary assessments on their premium notes. The total losses of the company from May 1st 1879 to May 31st 1880, foot up to the enormous sum of \$480,372.38. By the Milton fire alone the company lost over \$90,000. It was these heavy losses that made it necessary to levy the recent extraordinary assessment of 25 per cent. on the premium notes of the policy holders which have created such excitement here. These notes aggregate about \$2,000,000, and the 25 per cent. assessment as above, ought to bring into the treasury \$500,000, but the sum will be considerably smaller, owing to exonerations, failures, sales of property, &c. The amount of the assessment on Lancaster policy holders is about \$3,000. Although the recent assessment of 25 per cent. may seem high, yet if it is considered in connection with the very low assessments made during a period of twenty years it will not appear exorbitant. A single illustration may be given. A property insured in the Lycoming ten years ago for \$1,500 cost the assured \$6 per annum. Had the property been assessed on the cash plan the annual cost would have been \$11.25 per annum."

We have no means of ascertaining the number of policies held in Lancaster nor the amount of insurance covered by them. The rates vary greatly, as the property is more or less exposed to fire. Thus the premium note for an insurance of \$1,000 on a substantial brick building is as low as \$10, whereas on an exposed frame structure in which fires are used the premium note is sometimes as high as \$600 on the \$1,000.

All the insurance journals that have discussed the recent troubles of the Lycoming company concur in stating that the company has been,